

From: thorson@magma.aster.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 3:25pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Renata B. Hesse
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
601 D Street NW
Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Renata,

I have been a software engineer for the last 19 years applying my expertise in the Scientific, Educational and Defense industries. My experience includes a broad spectrum of computer equipment at every level from massively parallel super computers, to Unix systems , all the way down to the Macintosh, Linux and Microsoft desktop systems.

Over the years my purchases have been greatly affected by the growing monopoly nature of the Microsoft operating system. I have, at times, been forced by vendors to purchase dozens of copies of Windows which I didn't need nor use. There have been times where I could not purchase Intel based hardware without MS Windows at ANY mainstream vendor. You can see where this could cause great frustration to someone who is trying to be financially responsible with public funds. When the US courts declared that Microsoft was a monopoly and had participated in unfair trade practices, I was elated. Finally, something would be done about them.

Now, I understand that there is a proposed settlement called the Tunney Act. I have read much about this proposed settlement but find it greatly lacking. It seems to try and address (much too late) the few infractions that were brought up in the anti-trust hearings but does nothing to change the years and years of disgusting strong-arm business practices. I am appalled that some states would even consider this document that looks like it may have been written in Redmond, WA. Be aware that if Microsoft's practices aren't changed now

it will be much more difficult when they have control of every part of your daily business.

I am writing this to express my support of the nine states who refused to sign the settlement and hope they are successful in forcing a settlement that truly addresses the problem.

Also, in my search for Tunney Act information I came across an essay written by Dan Kegel. This essay is a "must read" for anybody involved with this case and I personally agree with it. You can find the essay this at this location:

<http://www.kegel.com/remedy/remedy2.html>

Thank you.

Bill Thorson
Engineer/Scientist
Mission Research Corp.
Fort Collins, CO